



Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Social Services
Office of Newcomer Services
Virginia State Refugee Coordinator
(ONS/SRC)


ONS/SRC GUIDANCE LETTER

NUMBER 11-02
Date: September 9, 2011

☐ ACTION ITEM ☒ INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Subject: Confirmed Measles Case in Burmese Refugee from Malaysia

To: ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

From: Kathy A. Cooper 
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Virginia State Refugee Coordinator

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The Virginia Department of Health advised the State Refugee Coordinator's Office that a case of measles was identified in a refugee from Malaysia who arrived in California on Aug 24, 2011 and was symptomatic during travel. No new arrivals to Virginia have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as having had contact with this individual.

The purpose of this Guidance Letter is to advise you that refugees coming from Malaysia in recent weeks may have been exposed to measles in Malaysia. If you have had refugee arrivals from Malaysia between August 1, 2011 and August 31, 2011, the following actions are to be taken:

1. Contact the local health district (LHD) office immediately to schedule the refugee medical screening appointment and ask that it be done as soon as it is feasible for the LHD.
2. Do not take the refugee to the LHD office without a prior appointment and discussion with the case with the LHD nurse. This will allow the LHD to take necessary infection control measures.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) suggests, that in the unlikely event that a recent refugee arrival has a rash preceded by a fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher and cough, runny nose, and/or red, watery eyes, this may be an indication of measles. VDH recommends that you isolate the refugee from other persons and immediately call the local health district office to ensure a prompt public health response. Attached is a VDH Fact Sheet on Measles for your information. Here is the link to that fact sheet <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/factsheets/pdf/Measles.pdf> .

For your information, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notified the Virginia Department of Health that, effective Sept 1, 2011, all refugees from Malaysia are being vaccinated against measles and travel is being delayed for 21 days before travel to the United States is allowed. Twenty-one days is one incubation period.